

26. (New) A device as recited in claim 24 wherein the electrical power source supplies an electrical current having a frequency of about 30 Hz.

27. (New) A device as recited in claim 24 wherein the elongated probe has a right circular cylindrical configuration.

28. (New) A device as recited in claim 25 wherein the front end has a tapered rounded tip.

29. (New) A device as recited in claim 24 wherein the first electrode has an annular configuration and is located proximate the front end of the probe, and wherein the second electrode has an annular configuration and is located proximate the first electrode.

30. (New) A device as claimed in claim 27 wherein the first and second electrodes are separated by an annular groove in the probe.

31. (New) A device as claimed in claim 27 wherein the second electrode extends from a position proximate the first electrode to the rear end of the probe.

32. (New) A device as claimed in claim 24 wherein the electrodes are stainless steel electrodes.

33. (New) A method of immobilising an animal comprising the steps of:

(a) inserting a probe having a pair of electrodes into the anal canal of the animal;
and

(b) applying a pulsed electrical current through the electrodes to the animal, said current having a frequency of between about 20 and 50 Hz, a potential of between about 1 and 11 volts and a current strength of between about 250 and 400 mA.

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34. (New) A method of immobilising an animal as recited in claim 33 wherein the applying a pulsed electrical current step includes applying an electrical current having a frequency of about 30 Hz.

35. (New) A method of immobilising an animal as recited in claim 33 wherein the applying a pulsed electrical current step includes applying an electrical current having a potential of between about 2 and 10 volts.

36. (New) A method of immobilising an animal as recited in claim 33 wherein the animal is an ungulate.

REMARKS

The Office Action of November 18, 2002 has been received and considered. In the Office Action, claims 1-23 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) or 103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 3,933,147 to Du Vall et al., alone or in view of additional publications. Claims 4 and 6 were also rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite.

Claims 1-23 have been cancelled. Claims 24-36 have been added. Claims 24-36 are currently pending. Reconsideration of the application is requested.

The rejection of claims 4 and 6 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, and the objection of claim 1 are moot in view of the cancellation of claims 1-23. Claims 24-36 have been written to avoid these rejection and objection. Withdrawal of the rejection and the objection is requested.

The invention relates to a rectal probe for animals, such as cattle, which has a pair of electrodes connected to a power supply. The power supply is designed to produce an electrical current with particular characteristics that have been found to apply a mild, localized current that causes immobilization of an animal when the probe is inserted in the animal's rectum. In particular, the pending claims recite that the electrical power source supplies an electrical current of between about 250 mA